(c) whether the present set up for research and reference is centralised or any proposal to have regional Research and Reference Division in Delhi; and

(d) the comparative statement of enhancement of outlay for the electronic media and other media units, if any?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Strengthening of the non-electronic media is an ongoing process. This is achieved by means of monitoring, feedback, review and modernisation of the field units of the Ministry.

(b) The units of the Directorate of Field Publicity interact with local panchayats and work with them. Measures have been taken to modernise the audio-visual equipment and increase the reach of the field functionaries. New units have also been opened in remote areas during the 8th Five Year Plan period.

(c) Research, Reference and Training Division is a centralised set-up located in Delhi. There is no proposal to have regional Research, Reference and Training Division in Delhi.

(d) Statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

Ministry of information and Broadcasting

Outlay for the Electronic Media and Non Electronic Media Units for the year 1995-96 and 1996-97

(Figures in Lakhs)

S.No.	Sector	Approved Outlay (1995-96)	Proposed Outlay (1996-97)	Percentage increase over 1995-96
1.	Electronic Sector (All India Radio/ Doordarshan	44878.00	48038.00	7.0
2.	Non-Electronic Sector (other Media Units) (figures include internal resources)	4672.00	5262.00	12.6

Functioning of Telephone Exchanges in Coochbehar

2511. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints in respect of improper functioning of Dinhate telephone exchange in district Coochbehar (West Bengal) during the last three years and till date; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A complaint from Shri Amar Roy Pradhan, M.P. dated 12.9.95 was received by the Govt. regarding improper functioning of Dinhata telephone exchange in Coochbehar district.

In the month of June'95 the transmission equipment was damaged due to heavy lighting, interrupting the sevices. Normalcy was restored on 23.6.95 necessary spare equipments have been procured to avoid such prolonged interruptions.

[Translation]

Packing of Wheat and Rice

2512. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has changed the packing of wheat and rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity of foodgrains likely to be supplied in changed packing during 1996-97;

(d) whether expenditure on new packing is more in comparison to the old packing; and

(e) if so, the details of extra expenditure likely to be incurred by the FCI during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). It has been decided to switch over to 50 Kg. packaging of foodgrains (wheat and rice) in a phased manner spread over a period of five years starting from Kharif 1994-95 seasons.

(c) Excluding the quantities procured by State Govt. agencies, 6.59 lakh MTs of wheat has been packed in 50 Kg. packaging in rabi 1996-97 out of total procurement of 21.5 lakh MTs by the Corporation. Procurement of paddy/rice in 1996-97 is yet to commence.

(d) and (e). Excluding the additional cost to be incurred in stitching, handling and transportation, cost of jute gunnies per quintal is likely to go up by about 24% when foodgrains are packed in 50 Kg. Bags as against 95 Kg. bags at present.

[English]

Expansion of Telecom System in Maharashtra

2513. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated/utilised for development,